

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 06011 161046Z

44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 IO-11 AID-05 /039 W  
----- 028348

R 161015Z MAR 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO USDOC WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0283  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 6011

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, TH

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECTS: BANGKOK MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM; BANGKOK  
EXPRESSWAY

REF: A) 75 BANGKOK A-322, B) 72 BANGKOK A-20, C) 71 BANGKOK A-436

1. ON FEBRUARY 27, THE EXPRESSWAY AND RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF THAILAND (ETA) ISSUED AN INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS (DUE MAY 27) TO DO A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR AN ELEVATED MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR BANGKOK. THE INVITATIONS WERE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING NINE SHORT-LISTED FIRMS: DE LEUW, CATHER INTERNATIONAL/ WIBLUR SMITH (U.S.); BECHTEL (U.S.); GANNETT, FLEMING, CORDDRY (U.S.); PARSONS, BRICKERHOFF (U.S.); SVERDRUP AND PARCEL INTEERNATIONAL(U.S.); DORSCH CONSULT (W.GERMANY); ELECTRO CONSULT (ITALY); MOTT, HAY, ANDERSON (U.K.); AND PACIFIC CONSULTANTS (JAPAN).

2. ON MARCH 11, EMBOFF ACCOMPANIED ROBERT SHIELDS, MANAGER, PACIFIC OPERATIONS OF PARSONS, BRINCKERHOFF ON A CALL TO CHAMLONG SALIGUPTA, GENERAL MANAGER, ETA. CHAMLONG SAID THAT SHIELDS WAS FIRST TO PERSONALLY VISIT ETA SINCE INVITATION WAS ISSUED ALTHOUGH HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE U.K. FIRM EXPRESSING INTEREST. CHAMLONG, AS USUAL, WAS FRIENDLY AND  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 06011 161046Z

HELPFUL BUT HIS DEPUTY, A MR. CHANANT, WAS UNWILLING TO GIVE

THE COMPANY A COPY OF THE RECENTLY COMPLETED GERMAN STUDY OF THE BANGKOK TRAFFIC SITUATION WHICH THE FIRMS REQUIRE BEFORE PREPARING A PROPOSAL. AFTER FURTHER APPEAL, ETA AGREED TO PROVIDE PARSONS, BRINCKERHOFF (AND PRESUMABLY THE OTHER FIRMS) WITH A COPY.

3. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE STATE THAT THE ETA PROPOSES TO APPLY TO IBRD OR OTHER LENDING AGENCIES FOR A PROJECT LAON. THE RTG HAS DECIDED TO FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GERMAN STUDY, DESPITE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT OBJECTIONS, TO INITIALLY BUILD AN ELEVATED STRUCTURE FOR USE BY BUSES WHICH THEN COULD BE CONVERTED TO RAIL AT A LATER DATE. THIS THREE SEGMENT NETWORK WITH A TOTAL LENGTH OF 47.5 KILOMETERS WILL COST APPROXIMATELY 200 MILLION DOLLARS IF BUILT FOR BUS USE AND 350 MILLION DOLLARS

IF BUILT FOR RAIL USE. THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT WAS REPORTEDLY CONCERNED THAT, GIVEN THE NATURE OF THAI BUS DRIVERS, A BUS SYSTEM WOULD BE UNSAFE, BUT CHAMLONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH A BUS CONVERTIBLE TO RAIL SYSTEM PRIMARILY ON THE BASIS OF COST.

4. FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, IN OCTOBER 1975, THE EMBASSY LEARNED THAT, ALTHOUGH FOUR AMERICAN FIRMS HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN ON THE SHORT LIST, THE ETA HAD REMOVED ALL THE U.S. FIRMS BUT ONE AND ADDED TWO NON-U.S. FIRMS TO THE INITIAL SHORT-LIST BECAUSE OF A REQUEST BY IBRD TO INCREASE GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION. WE THEN WROTE ETA REQUESTING THAT THOSE AMERICAN FIRMS DROPPED BY RE-ADDED TO THE SHORT-LIST. THIS WAS IN SUPPORT OF A SEPARATE REQUEST TO ETA BY ONE OF THE AMERICAN FIRMS THAT HAD BEEN DROPPED. ON FEBRUARY 3, AN ANONYMOUS SOURCE IN A THAI NEWSPAPER ON FEBRUARY 3 SAID THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY WAS SUPPORTING ONE OF THE U.S. FIRMS' EFFORTS TO BE RE-ADDED. NEITHER THE FIRM NOR THE EMBASSY REACTED TO THIS ATTACK WHICH APPEARED TO ORIGINATE FROM INSIDE ETA EVEN THOUGH SOME OF THE STORY'S FACTS WERE WRONG. IN ANY CASE, ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY NEVER RECEIVED A REPLY FROM ETA, FIVE AMERICAN FIRMS, INCLUDING ALL THOSE ON THE INITIAL SHORT-LIST, FINALLY RECEIVED INVITATIONS TO PROPOSE.

5. REGARDING THE BANGKOK EXPRESSWAY PROJECT, MR. CHAMLONG SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 06011 161046Z

THAT THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT HAS JUST DECIDED TO AWARD A FINAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF THE REMAINING TWO PORTIONS TO THE SAME ENGINEERING FIRM, FREEMAN FOX (U.K.), THAT DID THE WORK ON THE FIRST PORTION. THIS WAS DESPITE REPORTS OF RECENT FAILURES OF SEVERAL FREEMAN FOX DESIGNED BRIDGES AROUND THE WORLD.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE

DISSENSION WITHIN ETA RELATING TO WHO SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO  
BID ON THIS MAJOR PROJECT. ONE AMERICAN COMPANY BELIEVES THE  
RATHER UNCOOPERATIVE DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER MAY EVEN HAVE  
SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION OVER THE ISSUE. IN ANY EVENT, ALTHOUGH  
IT IS STILL NOT CERTAIN THAT AN AMERICAN COMPANY WILL WIN THE  
BID, WE BELIEVE THAT EMBASSY'S INTERVENTION HAS AT LEAST  
INCREASED THE MATHEMATICAL CHANCES OF ONE OF THEM DOING SO.  
WHITEHOUSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BANGKO06011  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760098-0902  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760358/aaaabyvx.tel  
**Line Count:** 123  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 BANGKOK A-322, 76 BANGKOK A-20, 76 BANGKOK A-436  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <26 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MAJOR PROJECTS: BANGKOK MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM; BANGKOK EXPRESSWAY  
**TAGS:** BEXP, TH  
**To:** COM  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006